

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8, 11, 13, 14, and 17-20 are pending with Claims 1, 11 and 17-20 being independent. Claims 9, 10, 15, and 16 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 1-8, 11-14, and 17-20 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,637) and Claims 9, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Akiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,674,485).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 1, 11 and 17-20 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to an image processing apparatus comprising an input unit configured to input image data including image components, a generating unit, and an adding unit.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an image processor configured to process the input image data.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the generating unit is configured to generate plane mesh image data representing a plane mesh image having equally spaced grid lines and transform the plane mesh image data by changing the space or tilt angle of the grid lines according to a distortion presented in the input image data or the processing performed by the image processor.

Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the adding unit is configured to add the transformed mesh image data to the image data processed by the image processor.

By this arrangement, a user can easily recognize distortion of the input image or of a transformation performed on the input image, due to the use of the grid lines.

In contrast, the citation to Suzuki is not understood to disclose or suggest a generating unit configured to generate plane mesh image data representing a plane mesh image having equally spaced grid lines and transform the plane mesh image data by changing the space or tilt angle of the grid lines according to a distortion presented in the input image data or the processing performed by the image processor, or an adding unit configured to add the transformed mesh image data to the image data processed by the image processor, as recited by amended Claim 1. Rather, this patent is understood to disclose the combining of a mesh image and a captured image. But, the mesh image in Suzuki is understood to merely be a striped image used to easily recognize the size of the image, and does not is not understood to have grid lines that facilitate recognition of distortion and/or tilting of the input image. In addition, this citation is not understood to disclose or suggest the generating unit or the adding unit recited by amended Claim 1.

Since amended Claim 1 recites at least one feature not disclosed or suggested by the citation to Suzuki, Applicant submits that the Office has not yet satisfied its burden of proof to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of amended Claim 1 be withdrawn. And because independent Claims 11 and 17-20 have been amended in a similar manner, they are allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of amended Claims 11 and 17-20 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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